

Immunization Audits - Frequently Asked Questions

2020-2021 School Year

Iowa Department of Public Health
Protecting and Improving the Health of Iowans
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2020-21 Child Care and School Immunization Requirements

Q1: Will immunization requirements for students attending licensed child care, elementary and secondary schools for the 2020-21 school year be delayed or suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

A: The Iowa Department of Public Health will not delay or suspend immunization requirements for the 2020-21 school year. In order to attend school or licensed child care for the 2020-21 school year, all students shall have received the required immunizations and submit an Iowa Department of Public Health Certificate of Immunization or have a valid Certificate of Immunization Exemption, or Provisional Certificate of Immunization.

Q2: Can Iowa licensed child care centers or schools exclude children with a medical or religious exemptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

A: No. Iowa Code section 139A.8(4)(b) and Iowa Immunization Administrative Code 7.3(3) states “Medical and religious exemptions under this rule do not apply in times of emergency or epidemic as determined by the state board of health and declared by the director of public health.”

It is the Iowa Department of Public Health’s position, Iowa Immunization Administrative Code 7.3(3) is applicable only if the emergency or epidemic results from an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease as specified in 7.4(1). As a result, child care centers and school should continue to accept medical and religious exemptions if a student satisfies the requirements for the exemption.

Q3: What if a student has not received all of the required vaccines prior to the start of school?

A: Students who have received at least one dose of each of the required immunizations may attend school by submitting a Provisional Certificate of Immunization. A provisional certificate is valid for 60 days and allows time for the child to receive additional vaccine doses. At the end of the provisional period, a Certificate of Immunization including all of the required vaccines must be submitted to the child care or school the child is enrolled or attempting to enroll.

Q4: During the 2020-21 school year if educational services are provided through online learning, e-learning, distance learning or virtual learning, will students still need to comply with school and child care requirements?

A: The Iowa immunization requirements apply to all students enrolled in a licensed child care center or a public or nonpublic elementary or secondary school in Iowa. Regardless of the means in which educational services are provided, all students are required to comply with Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 7. Consequently, students must meet immunization requirements to enroll in school regardless of classes being conducted in person or online attendance or be excluded from school. Applicants not presenting proper evidence of immunization, or an exemption, are not entitled to enrollment in a licensed child care center or elementary or secondary school under the provisions of Iowa Code section 139A.8. It shall be the duty of the admitting official to deny enrollment to any applicant who does not submit proper evidence of immunization according to rule 641-7.6(139A) and to exclude a provisionally enrolled applicant in accordance with rule 641-7.7(139A).

Q5: When are school and child care audit reports due to the Iowa Department of Public Health?

A: More information about the due date will be forthcoming. The due date for audits may be extended due to challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

General Audit Questions

Q1: When should school audits begin?

A: School audits should begin as soon as possible to allow additional time to for local public health agencies to conduct audits. The timeframe to begin audits has been adjusted due to challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Q2: When conducting school immunization audits, do all student records need to be reviewed every year?

A: No, previously audited records do not need reviewed every year. Routinely, when Local Public Health Agencies (LPHAs) audit student records, the certificate is marked to indicate the record has been audited and meets immunization requirements. When this has occurred, the record only needs to re-evaluated when vaccines are required for entry into additional grades (e.g., 7th grade - Tdap vaccine, 7th and 12th grade - Meningococcal vaccine).

Q3: If a child transfers from an Iowa school to another Iowa school, does their immunization record need to be re-audited?

A: If a student transfers from one Iowa school to another, even if the schools are in different counties, records marked as previously audited by a local public health agency do not need to be audited again. The reviewer would only need to evaluate the record for compliance with immunization requirements for additional grades as necessary (e.g., Tdap and Meningococcal vaccine). If the student is transferring from another U.S. school, the student must obtain a valid Iowa Department of Public Health Certificate of Immunization or Provisional Certificate of Immunization. For transfer students from another U.S. school, a provisional certificate may be issued for 60 days to allow time to obtain immunization records. Transfer students' records outside of Iowa must be reviewed during the school audit.

Q4: Does the immunization law allow for the 4-day "grace period"?

A: Since 2009, the law allows vaccine doses administered up to 4 days before the minimum interval or age to be counted as valid. The 4-day "grace period" should not be applied to the 28-day interval between two live virus vaccines (e.g., MMR and Varicella) if not administered at the same visit.

Q5: When are school and child care audit reports due to the Iowa Department of Public Health?

A: More information about the due date will be forthcoming. The due date for audits may be extended due to challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Immunization Certificates

Q1: What is the current version of the Certificate of Immunization?

A: The current version of the Certificate of Immunization is dated January 2013, and is available on the Iowa Department of Public Health, [Immunization Program webpage](https://www.idph.iowa.gov/immunization/immunization-program). Certificates can ordered on the Immunization Program webpage at <https://www.idph.iowa.gov/immunization/immunization/forms>.

Q2: What proof of immunization is required for enrollment in Iowa schools?

A: In order to attend school or licensed child care, the child needs one of the following; an Iowa Department of Public Health-Certificate of Immunization, Provisional Certificate of Immunization, or Certificate of Immunization Exemption. A brief explanation of each certificate is included below.

- **Certificate of Immunization** - Issued when applicant has a record of age-appropriate immunizations that meet the requirement for licensed child care or school enrollment.
- **Provisional Certificate of Immunization** - Issued when the applicant has received at least one dose of each of the required vaccines but has not completed all required immunizations or is a transfer student from another U.S. school system.
- **Certificate of Immunization Exemption-Medical** - Iowa law allows for medical exemption to immunization when required immunizations would be injurious to the health and well-being of the applicant or any member of the applicant's family or household or required vaccine would violate minimum interval spacing.
- **Certificate of Immunization Exemption-Religious** - Iowa law allows for religious exemption to immunization when immunizations conflict with a genuine and sincere religious belief, and is not based merely on philosophical, scientific, moral, personal or medical opposition to immunizations.

More information regarding immunization certificates are available on the [Immunization Program webpage](#).

Q3: Are previous versions of immunization certificate valid or do students need the most current version of the certificate?

A: Previous versions of immunization certificates remain valid and student records do not need to be updated when versions change. If a new student enrolling in school or child care for the first time submits a previous version of the Certificate of Immunization Exemption, the certificate is valid. Although the most current version of the certificate is preferred, it is not required.

Q4: Is the school nurse allowed to sign the Certificate of Immunization for students?

A: Yes, school nurses are allowed to sign the Certificate of Immunization if the record indicates a child is up-to-date on all school entry immunization requirements.

Q5: A family has established care with a health care provider outside of Iowa. Are immunization certificates valid when signed by a health care provider who does not hold an Iowa license?

A: No, immunization certificates must be signed by the appropriate Iowa licensed health care provider. Instead of the family incurring the cost of establishing care with an Iowa physician or making another appointment, the family may have a certificate signed by an Iowa licensed health care provider in their current health system or have an appropriate health care provider in an Iowa local public health agency sign the certificate.

Q6: Is a Certificate of Immunization Exemption for medical purposes valid when signed by a doctor of chiropractic?

A: No, a Certificate of Immunization Exemption for medical reasons is valid only when signed by an Iowa licensed physician (M.D. or D.O.), physician assistant or nurse practitioner. The current Certificate of Immunization Exemption includes fields for the health care professional to print their name and Iowa medical license number.

Q7: Can an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner sign the medical Certificate of Immunization Exemption for their own child?

A: An Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) may sign a medical exemption form for their child if the ARNP is a medical provider for their own child. The ARNP must have established a patient-provider relationship and completed documentation of treatment and assessment. Additionally, the child must fall within the ARNP's respective population foci.

Q8: What religions are acceptable for a religious exemption?

A: The Iowa administrative code does not specify religious denominations eligible for a religious immunization exemption. A religious Certificate of Immunization Exemption is valid when completed appropriately and notarized. A religious exemption may be granted to a student if the immunization conflicts with a genuine and sincere religious belief and the belief is in fact religious and not based merely on philosophical, scientific, moral, personal, or medical opposition to immunizations.

Q9: Are Certificates of Immunization Exemption forms valid if the form has been altered?

A: The validity of the Immunization Exemption Certificates is based on language in Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 7. Language which references code citation cannot be altered. Any edits or alterations to the Medical Certificate of Immunization Exemption or Religious Certificate of Immunization Exemption language referencing Iowa Administrative Code would result in the form being invalid. In order for a Certificate of Immunization Exemption to be valid, all portions of the form must be completed in its entirety.

Q10: Is a religious Certificate of Immunization Exemption valid when notarized by an out-of-state notary?

A: Yes, a religious Certificate of Immunization Exemption is valid when notarized by an out-of-state notary.

Q11: Who is allowed to sign the Religious Certificate of Immunization Exemption?

A: To be valid, the religious Certificate of Immunization Exemption requires the signature of the applicant or, if the applicant is a minor, the applicant's parent or guardian. Instances when the applicant is a minor and the Department of Human Services is the guardian, documentation of guardianship must be obtained and attached to the Religious Certificate of Immunization Exemption. Without this documentation, the certificate of exemption is invalid.

Q12: A 7th grade student has a religious Certificate of Immunization Exemption on file. The notary's commission on the certificate is now expired. Does the student need to submit a new certificate of immunization exemption?

A: No, a previously completed religious Certificate of Immunization Exemption with an expired notary commission remains valid for the student's entire enrollment period in an Iowa school as long as the commission was current upon the original date of signature.

Q13: Can a notary, notarize the religious Certificate of Immunization Exemption for a relative?

A: The Immunization administrative rules does not address notary public regulations. However, information posted in a [Question and Answer](#) document on the Iowa Secretary of State's website includes the following: Pursuant to Iowa Code section 9B.4, a notary is prohibited from performing a notarial act with respect to a record the notary or notary's spouse is a party of or has a direct beneficial interest. Such a notarial act is voidable. For additional information contact the Secretary of State's office at 515-281-5204 or sos@sos.iowa.gov.

Q14: Is a foreign exchange student's host family able to sign a Certificate of Immunization Exemption-Religious?

A: Many host parents will have the authority to make decisions for treatment in a medical emergency. This does not allow authority for the host parents to sign or request a religious Certificate of Immunization Exemption. Please reference the following link for information from the [US Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Exchange Program](#).

Q15: Am I an exchange student's legal guardian?

A: No. The exchange student's natural parents remain legal guardians. The student's exchange program takes legal responsibility during the course of the program. Each exchange student's Certificate of Health contains a medical release form so host parents may secure medical treatment in case of an emergency.

Q16: Can a Provisional Certificate of Immunization be completed at the time of the audit?

A: During the audit, a school nurse or local public health nurse may sign a Certificate of Immunization or issue a Provisional Certificate of Immunization. However, for audit purposes, certificates signed during the audit should not be counted as a valid immunization certificate.

Q17: Can a provisional enrollment be extended beyond 60 days?

A: The time allowed for provisional enrollment is as soon as medically feasible to complete the immunization requirements but shall not exceed 60 calendar days. Additional Provisional Certificates may be issued at the end of the 60-day provisional enrollment only if the applicant has not completed the required immunizations due to minimum interval requirements. The longest minimum interval between 2 doses of required vaccines for school enrollment is 6 months; therefore, it is generally unnecessary to have more than 3 provisional certificates issued for a single student. If a Certificate of Immunization is not submitted at the end of the 60-day provisional period, the child shall be excluded from the benefits, activities, and opportunities of the school or licensed child care center until a valid Certificate of Immunization is submitted.

Q18: Can a Provisional Certificate of Immunization be issued for immigrants, refugees, or foreign exchange students who have not received all required immunizations to attend school or licensed child care centers?

A: A Provisional Certificate of Immunization may be issued to a transfer student from another country if the student has received at least one dose of each required vaccines. If at least one dose of each vaccine is not on file for the applicant, the record shall be counted as invalid for auditing purposes. If the child does not have a valid certificate, they shall be excluded from the benefits, activities, and opportunities of the school until a valid Certificate of Immunization is submitted.

Q19: A transfer student's immunization record arrives at school during the provisional enrollment period and the student is missing required immunizations. Should the student be immediately excluded from school?

A: No, the student remains qualified for provisional enrollment until the expiration date of the provisional certificate. If a Certificate of Immunization is not submitted at the end of the 60-day provisional period, the child shall be excluded from the benefits, activities, and opportunities of the school until a valid Certificate of Immunization is submitted. If the student receives additional doses of each required vaccine during the provisional enrollment period and has at least one of each of the required vaccines, an additional Provisional Certificate of Immunization may be issued.

Licensed Child Care and Preschool Audits

Q1: Where do I find a list of the licensed child care and preschool providers in my county?

A: A list of licensed childcare and preschool providers by county is available on the Iowa Department of Human Services webpage at <http://ccmis.dhs.state.ia.us/ClientPortal/ProviderSearch.aspx>.

Q2: Which immunization requirements are used to audit a child's record who is attending a preschool program in a public or private school?

A: Children in preschool, regardless of their age, should be audited according to the Licensed Child Care Center requirements. The Kindergarten - 12th grade requirements do not apply until the child enters kindergarten.

Q3: Which immunization requirements are used to audit a child's record who is enrolled in a transitional, developmental or junior kindergarten program in a public or private school?

A: Children in transitional, developmental or junior kindergarten should be audited according to Licensed Child Care Center requirements. The Iowa Immunization Administrative Code defines "*elementary school*" as kindergarten through grade 8. Other types of kindergarten programs such as transitional, developmental or junior kindergarten are not defined in administrative code by the Immunization Program or the Department of Education. These programs may include 4-year-old children who would not have adequate time to receive the required kindergarten vaccines prior to attending school and are audited according to Licensed Child Care Center requirements

Q4: If school-age children attend an after school licensed child care program, does the licensed child care center need to have an immunization record on file?

A: Yes, the Iowa Immunization Administrative Code requires a Certificate of Immunization be submitted to the licensed child care center in which the child wishes to enroll. An after school licensed child care center is required to have immunization records on file. The records should be audited according to the Licensed Child Care Center requirements.

Q5: Do children less than 12 months of age enrolled in a licensed child care center need a Certificate of Immunization on file if they have not completed the primary series of vaccines?

A: Yes, the Iowa Immunization Administrative Code requires a Certificate of Immunization be submitted to the licensed child care center in which the child wishes to enroll. The Certificate of Immunization should be updated to meet the age-appropriate immunization requirements and as children receive additional immunizations.

Q6: Do infants enrolled in licensed child care under the age of 4 months need a Certificate of Immunization on file for Iowa Immunization Requirements?

A: No, infants under 4 months of age are not counted in the audit and should not be included in the total enrollment number.

Home School Students

Q1: Do immunization records of a child receiving Competent Private Instruction (CPI) need to be audited?

A: The CPI category includes home schooled children who are not enrolled in independent private instruction and those in non-accredited nonpublic schools. There are two options for a child to enroll in CPI, **Option 1** and **Option 2**. The CPI enrollment option is provided by the school district. All **Option 1** children and **Option 2** children **dually enrolled** with the school district must provide evidence of immunization or exemption. Immunization records for these children must be audited and counted in the Home School row of the corresponding school. Immunization records for CPI/home schooled children are often maintained in the school district office. Children enrolled under **Option 2 and not dually enrolled** with the school district are not required to submit evidence of immunization. Immunization records for these children are not included in the audit and the children are not counted in the Total Enrollment on the Immunization Record Review.

An additional type of private instruction, **Independent Private Instruction (IPI)**, became effective on July 1, 2013. Children who are home schooled under IPI are exempt from the immunization requirements. Immunization records for these children are not included in the audit, and the children are not counted in the Total Enrollment on the Immunization Record Review. For additional information see [the Iowa Department of Education, Private Instruction](#) webpage or contact Buffy Campbell at the Department of Education, 515-954-8651.

Q2: During a school audit, where should records of home school children be documented?

A. Home school student records should be documented in the Home School row of the corresponding school where the immunization record is maintained (e.g., elementary school). If home school student records are maintained at the school district office, an audit may be submitted for the school district office and would include records for home school children only. IRIS includes a school district for each district in Iowa in the School Name drop down menu. School districts should not be used to report audit data with the exception of home school student records maintained at the school district office. Regardless of where home school student records are documented for the audit, student records should only be counted in one location (e.g., school or school district office).

As of the 2013-14 school year, the Immunization Program began releasing individual school-level immunization audit data. The location of home school children's records and where these records are documented during the immunization audit may impact individual school data. Rates for each type of certificate can impact individual school data. For example, if all home school children for the school district are reported in one elementary school rather than throughout various schools within the district or in the school district office, and the majority of these students have an Immunization Exemption, the percentage of students with an immunization exemption will appear higher for this school and is a misrepresentation of audit data for the school.

Q3: If a home school student has submitted immunization records upon initial enrollment in CPI, can a school nurse or auditor request an updated immunization certificate?

A: An immunization certificate is required only upon initial enrollment in CPI option 1 or Dual Enrollment. The Iowa home school regulations do not provide authorization to require updated immunization information beyond the first submission. Updates can be requested but are not required.

Tdap Vaccine Requirement

Q1: If a student already has a valid Medical or Religious Certificate of Immunization Exemption on file, is an updated certificate of exemption required for the Tdap or meningococcal vaccine requirements?

A: If a medical exemption form has no specific vaccines listed, it is valid for all vaccines and remains in effect until the expiration date noted on the form. If no expiration date is included, the medical exemption remains in effect for the student's entire enrollment period in an Iowa licensed child care center, elementary and secondary school. **If a medical exemption does not include diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis, or meningococcal vaccine a new Certificate of Immunization Exemption form is required to include those antigens.** The current version (January 2017) of the Medical Certificate of Immunization Exemption includes a section for the health care provider to select which required vaccine(s) the child is exempt from receiving.

A previously completed certificate for religious exemption is valid for all vaccines including Tdap and Meningococcal. The religious exemption remains in effect for the student's entire enrollment period in an Iowa licensed child care center, elementary and secondary school.

Q2: What is the Tdap vaccine requirement?

A: Students entering, advancing or transferring into 7th grade or above, and born after September 15, 2000, need proof of an adolescent tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough) booster immunization ("Tdap") for school enrollment. This dose must contain the pertussis component to be considered compliant with school entry requirements. A dose of Td (tetanus, diphtheria) does not meet this requirement.

Q3: Will all students born after September 15, 2000, need proof of Tdap vaccine or just 7th grade students?

A: Students entering 7th grade and above who were born after September 15, 2000, are required to have Tdap vaccine. Based upon the date of birth requirement, all students in 7 -12 grade during the 2020-21 school year are required to receive Tdap vaccine.

Q4: What if a child does not have proof of Tdap vaccine before school starts?

A: Children who have received one dose of pediatric diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTaP) vaccine may attend school by submitting a Provisional Certificate of Immunization. The Provisional Certificate of Immunization is valid for a maximum of 60 days, which allows time for the child to receive the adolescent Tdap vaccine. If the child does not receive the vaccine by the end of the provisional enrollment period (60 days), the child shall be excluded from school.

Q5: Is there a grace period or extension to receive Tdap vaccine after school starts?

A: No, there is no grace period/extension for the Tdap vaccine requirement. All students entering 7th grade and above who were born after September 15, 2000, need to submit a completed Certificate of Immunization with the Tdap immunization, a Certificate of Immunization Exemption or a Provisional Certificate of Immunization when enrolling in school.

Q6: If a child received a dose of DTaP or Tdap on or after their 7th birthday, does this count toward the 7th grade school entry Tdap requirement?

A: Yes, any dose of Tdap or DTaP received on or after 7 years of age counts toward the adolescent booster dose requirement for Tdap. In some instances, a child may be recommended medically to receive an additional Tdap vaccine at age 11 years, but for audit purposes, a dose received on or after age 7 years meets the requirement.

Meningococcal Vaccine Requirement

Q1: What grades are included in the meningococcal vaccine requirement?

A: All students entering, advancing or transferring into 7th grade and above and born after September 15, 2004, will need proof of one dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY) received on or after 10 years of age. For the 2020-2021 school year, this will include students in 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th grades if born after September 15, 2004. Students entering 11th grade were generally born prior to September 15, 2004 and therefore are not required to have MenACWY vaccine. However, if a student entering 11th grade during the 2020-2021 school year was born after September 15, 2004, MenACWY vaccine is required.

All students entering, advancing, or transferring into 12th grade and born after September 15, 1999, will need proof of two doses of MenACWY vaccine (1 dose on or after 10 years of age and 1 dose received on or after 16 years of age); or 1 dose if received when the student was 16 years of age or older.

Q2: Do all students in 7th grade and above born after September 15, 2004, need to receive the meningitis (A, C W, Y) vaccine?

A: Yes, students will need one dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine unless the student has a Certificate of Immunization Exemption. This includes current students, new students and transfer students in both public and private schools. Many students have already received the vaccine and simply need to submit a new Certificate of Immunization to the school documenting meningococcal vaccine has been received.

Q3: Do all 12th grade students born after September 15, 1999, need to receive two-doses the meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY)?

A: Yes, students will need two doses of vaccine. The second dose must be received on or after 16 years of age. If the student received the first dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY) at 16 years of age or older, only one dose is required. This includes current students, new students and transfer students in both public and private schools. Many students have already received the vaccine and simply need to submit a new Certificate of Immunization to the school documenting the meningococcal vaccine has been received.

Q4: Does the meningococcal requirement include meningitis B (MenB) vaccine?

A: No. The meningococcal vaccine requirement is only for meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY). Meningococcal serogroup B vaccines (MenB) do not provide protection against serogroup A, C, W, or Y disease. MenB vaccine does not meet the meningococcal vaccine requirement.

Q5: Will all students born after September 15, 2004, need to have proof of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY) or just 7th graders; the wording makes it sound as if perhaps it will be for grades 7-12?

A: The meningococcal requirement will be phased in and includes two parts.

- For the 2020-21 school year, students entering grades 7 and above, who were born after September 15, 2004, will be required to receive the MenACWY vaccine. This will generally apply to 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th grades for the 2020-21 school year. If a student is entering 11th grade during the 2020-21 school year, they were generally born prior to September 15, 2004, therefore would not be affected by this requirement. Likewise, if a student entering 7th grade or above in 2020-21 was born before September 15, 2004, s/he will not be affected by this requirement. Looking ahead, an additional grade level will meet this requirement each school year, based on the student's date of birth, until all grades 7-11 will be included.

2020-21: grades 7, 8, 9, 10

2021-22: grades 7, 8, 9, 10, 11

- Students entering 12th grade, who were born after September 15, 1999, will need proof of two doses of MenACWY vaccine (1 dose received on or after 10 years of age and 1 dose on or after 16 years of age); or 1 dose if received when the student was 16 years of age or older.

Q6: Should all adolescents receive a routine booster dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY)?

A: Adolescents who receive the first dose of meningococcal between 10 and 16 years of age should receive a one-time booster dose, on or after 16 years of age. Teens who receive their first dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine on or after age 16 years of age do not need a booster dose of vaccine.

Q7: If a student received meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine (MPSV4) at age 5 years (such as for international travel) and a dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY) at age 11 or 12 years, will they still need a booster dose of MenACWY vaccine at age 16 years?

A: Yes. Any meningococcal vaccination given prior to the tenth birthday (either with MenACWY or MPSV4) does NOT meet the meningococcal vaccine requirement. To comply with the 12th grade requirement, students will need to receive the second dose of meningococcal vaccine on or after 16 years of age.

Q8: What if a child does not have proof of the meningitis vaccine before school starts?

A: A Certificate of Immunization that includes the meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY) must be submitted to the school the child is enrolled or attempting to enroll. Children that have received one dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY) may attend school by submitting a Provisional Certificate of Immunization. The Provisional Certificate of Immunization is valid for a maximum of 60 days which allows time for the child to receive the meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY). If the child does not receive the vaccine by the end of the provisional enrollment period (60 days), the child shall be excluded from school.

Q9: Can students who have not received a meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY), be placed on a Provisional Certificate of Immunization?

A: No, there is no grace period or extension for this requirement. All students entering 7th grade and above who were born after September 15, 2004, and 12th grade students born after September 15, 1999 will need to submit a completed Certificate of Immunization with the meningococcal conjugate vaccination (MenACWY). A Provisional Certificate of Immunization can only be issued when the applicant has received at least one dose of the required vaccine.

Q10: Is there a grace period or extension to receive the meningococcal vaccine after school starts?

A: No, there is no grace period or extension for this requirement. All students entering 7th grade and above who were born after September 15, 2004, will need to submit a completed Certificate of Immunization with the meningococcal conjugate vaccination (MenACWY), or a Certificate of Immunization Exemption before enrolling in school.

All 12th grade students born after September 15, 1999, will need to submit a completed Certificate of Immunization with the meningococcal conjugate vaccination (MenACWY), a Certificate of Provisional Enrollment or a Certificate of Immunization Exemption before enrolling in school.

Q11: Which vaccines meet the meningococcal vaccine requirement?

A: The Iowa school entry requirement for immunizations follow the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations. The ACIP recommends meningococcal (A, C, W, Y) vaccination for adolescents at age 11-12 years. The youngest age a dose of meningococcal vaccine may be given to satisfy Iowa school entry requirements is 10 years of age. The CDC recommends the booster dose of meningococcal (A, C, W, Y) vaccine to be administered on or after 16 years of age.

The brand names of meningococcal conjugate vaccine available in the U.S. that contain all four serogroups are Menactra and Menveo. Any meningococcal vaccine administered that contained less than the four required serogroups (A, C, W, Y) does not count toward the school entry requirement.

Meningococcal B vaccines are recommended by the CDC for people 16-23 years of age with a preferred age of vaccination of 16-18 years as a category B recommendation. This recommendation allows the clinician to make a MenB vaccine recommendation based on the risk and benefit for the individual patient. These do not count toward the school entry requirement. Brand names of meningococcal B vaccines licensed in the U.S. are Bexsero and Trumenba.

Q12: When looking at patient records in IRIS, some records include Meningococcal NOS vaccine. Does Meningococcal NOS vaccine meet the meningococcal vaccine school requirement?

A: Meningococcal, NOS is the default name for meningococcal A, C, W, Y vaccines in IRIS if no trade name is selected. If no trade name was entered into IRIS and only Meningococcal NOS is displayed, a health care provider can assume this was a dose of meningococcal A, C, W, Y vaccine and would meet the meningococcal vaccine school requirement.